

testimony

From: Robin Hirano [rhirano@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 11:34 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

I have a young daughter, whom I would prefer not to expose to 2nd hand smoke, now and never. Since the smoking ban was enacted, I have had the pleasure of bringing her along to dine with friends and family without the worry of exposing her to 2nd hand smoke. Furthermore, someday she may seek employment in a restaurant or bar, and it would be great if she is not limited only to those workplaces that do not allow smoking.

I don't see why you are even consider lifting the ban. That would give any smoker the option to alter not only the dining experience of others, but also their health. Have you not personally experienced the premature death of a loved one due to smoking or 2nd hand smoke? Whose quality of life will be improved by lifting the ban? Is the ban turning off tourists in Waikiki? That's funny because coincidentally I've been dining in Waikiki more regularly.

Good luck to you, Mr. Ige and the Committee on Health. Please don't let this committee become an oxymoron.

Respectfully,

Robin Hirano

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testimony

From: Tracie Yoshimoto [livetobaccofree@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 11:41 AM
To: testimony
Subject: Testimony in Strong Opposition to SB 2792 Relating to Smoking

Chair Ige and members of the Committee on Health:
I am in strong opposition to SB 2792.

We should not go back to smoke filled workplaces and public places. I have a right to breathe clean air in public places and at work, and I do not want to roll back the law so my health is at risk to earn a living or when I go out to a restaurant.

Our workers and the public should not be exposed to secondhand smoke which leads to serious health risks and forces many to risk their health to earn a living.

Allowing restaurants, bars and clubs to allow smoking again would be taking a huge step back.

We must keep Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law strong. The law is working! It is saving lives and creating a cleaner, healthier work and public environment.

Since our smoke-free law went into effect, I have personally seen the positive impact the law has had on my family and the people with whom I work.

Since its enactment, Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law has saved hundreds of lives and protects all of us from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.

Secondhand smoke is a known cause of lung cancer, heart disease, chronic lung ailments such as bronchitis and asthma (particularly in children) and low birth-weight. Published studies from reputable medical journals have demonstrated a connection between the establishment of smoke-free laws and a reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks.

Smoke-free laws are rapidly becoming the norm around the world. Hawaii was the 14th state to pass a smoke-free law. Now there are 24 smoke-free states with even more pending.

A few people with special interests are trying to amend the law. Please do not let this happen. Hawaii's Smoke-Free Law is a good one.

Please do not take away our safe workplaces and public places. Don't give some businesses a license to kill!

Sincerely,

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